



City of Somerville

PLANNING, PRESERVATION & ZONING DIVISION

City Hall 3rd Floor, 93 Highland Avenue, Somerville MA 02143

TO: Planning Board
FROM: Planning, Preservation & Zoning Staff
SUBJECT: 350 Assembly Row Second Neighborhood Meeting

This memo summarizes the second neighborhood meeting for 350 Assembly Row which is required by the Somerville Zoning Ordinance.

This neighborhood meeting was held on 18 January 2022 at 6:00pm. The meeting was held virtually via the Zoom meeting platform. The following individuals from the applicant team were present: Sarah Forde, Federal Realty; Patrick McMahon, Federal Realty; Andrew Murphy, Federal Realty; Sandy Carroll, Jacobs Consultants; Brian Cook, Jacobs Consultants; Michael Giardina, Jacobs Consultants; Andrew Arbaugh, Copley Wolff; Nicole Vance, Copley Wolff; Patrick Dunford, VHB; Dale Horsman, VHB.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

In addition to minutes, the Director of Planning, Preservation & Zoning shall keep a public record of the neighborhood meeting that includes, but may not be limited to:

- Copies of all materials provided by the applicant at the meeting
- A list of those persons and organizations contacted about the meeting and the manner and date of contact
- A roster or signature sheet of attendees at the meeting (see attendees below)

MINUTES

After a brief presentation on the project from the Applicant team, the following comments, questions, and concerns were discussed at the meeting:

Site

- Some neighbors asked for clarification regarding the number of trees proposed for the site, specifically the breakdown of trees planted in soil on the site, as related to the number of trees in pots or planters.
- Residents in the Alloy condominium building indicated dismay with the proposed construction, noting that it could potentially block some views of the Boston skyline.
- Multiple neighbors expressed concern with the loss of activation uses on the site and called for activation of current parking lot areas with green space and programmed events.

Architecture/Design

- A neighbor expressed concern with the amount of glass called for on the façade, noting that many birds are injured or killed by flying into reflective glass building facades.

Landscaping

- Neighbors and local activists indicated a concern with the use of native species in planting areas, and identified a desire for 100% of specified species to be local or native.
- Multiple neighbors called for the use of vertical greenery to contribute to the project's landscaping.
- Several neighbors identified the need for more green space and particularly a dog park in the area.

Use

- One neighbor called for the provision of a heating/cooling center for local residents, as well as community or arts space within the building.

Utilities and Services

- Neighbors indicated a concern with the visual impact and noise produced by rooftop mechanicals.

Construction

- Neighbors asked for a rough outline of the expected start date and duration of construction activity on the site.

ATTENDEES

Barbara Steiner	Crystal H	Joanne Dooley
Lucy Piantini	Tori Antonino	Wilson Ortiz
Yinette Guzman	Matt McLaughlin	